

Claims

1. A method of remotely controlling a controllable device, the method comprising the acts of:

 broadcasting a wakeup signal to solicit transmission of an identifying signal from a controllable device;

 receiving the identifying signal over a narrower directional path than the broadcasted wakeup signal;

 broadcasting a control signal to the controllable device, wherein the control signal at least partially is determined from the received identifying signal.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the control signal contains a portion of the received identifying signal.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of analyzing the received identifying signal to determine a suitable control signal for the controllable device, wherein the broadcasted control signal is the suitable control signal.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the broadcasted wakeup signal is broadcast in response to a first user input and the control signal is broadcast in response to a second user input.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the broadcasted wakeup signal and the control signal is broadcast in response to a single user input.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of aligning a remote control device in the direction of a particular controllable device prior to broadcasting the

wakeup signal so that the received identifying signal is received only from the particular controllable device.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the act of broadcasting the wakeup signal to a plurality of controllable devices, wherein each of the plurality of controllable devices is positionally displaced from each other of the plurality of controllable devices, and wherein the narrower path of the received identifying information is sufficiently narrow so that only one of a plurality of identifying signals transmitted by the corresponding plurality of controllable devices is received.

8. A remote control device comprising:

a transceiving device configured to broadcast signals and configured to receive signals over a narrower directional path than the broadcasted signals; and

a user input coupled to the transceiving device, wherein the transceiving device is configured to broadcast a wakeup signal in response to activation of the user input, is configured to receive an identification signal from a controllable device, and is configured to broadcast a control signal at least partially determined from the received identification signal.

9. The remote control device of Claim 8, wherein the transceiver is configured to be aligned in the direction of one of a plurality of controllable devices that are each positionally displaced from each other of the plurality of controllable devices, and wherein the narrower directional path of the received identifying information is sufficiently narrow so that only the identifying signal of

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the one of the plurality of controllable devices is received.

10. The remote control device of Claim 8, wherein the transceiver is configured to send and receive signals within the infrared spectrum.